

REMARKS

Reconsideration of this patent application is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments, and the following remarks.

The amendments to this patent application are as follows. The Specification has been amended on Pages 1, 6, and 10 in order to list the various "Section Headings" required by U.S. Practice. The U.S. Specification has been amended on Pages 6, 7, 8, 9, and 10 in order to delete any reference to the claims in the Specification. Also the term "aim" or "problem" has been changed to read "object."

The Patent Examiner formally rejected claims 17 to 20, 25 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. 112, as being indefinite. Claim 16 was amended to correct a minor error.

The Patent Examiner alleged that Claim 17 was not understood because it is impossible. The Patent Examiner alleged that one can only repeat the method steps AFTER the method steps are complete. The Patent Examiner has contended that one cannot repeat the method in the middle of the method (i.e. prior to the method being complete).

In response to this objection, dependent claim 17 has been rewritten in independent claim format. Independent claim 17 recites the first, second and third process steps; and then "a third substep" has been inserted at that location in the sequence. This "third substep" is then followed by the fourth, fifth and sixth process steps. With regard to Claim 17, in the third sub step, the glass is deformed with spherical particles being reshaped into ellipsoidal ones. The term "revolution-ellipsoidal" is misleading, because this does not concern new aggregates. Rather the particles are merely brought from a spherical shape into an ellipsoidal shape. Thus the term "revolution" was cancelled.

The method of claim 16 has a total of six steps. Certain method steps are repeated, as can be observed from claim 16. The fourth step corresponds to step 1. The fifth step corresponds to step 2. In the dependent claims it is stated which method steps also can be repeated.

Regarding claim 18, the Patent Examiner objected to steps 1-5 being "multi-copied." In response thereto this term was cancelled and replaced by the term "repeated." There was also an objection to the phrase "specified broad

distribution." In response thereto, this word "specified" was cancelled.

Regarding claim 19, the Patent Examiner objected to the terminology "original" shapes in a "limited specific way." In response to this objection, claim 19 has been amended to cancel "original" and to cancel "in a limited specific way."

Regarding claim 19, the Patent Examiner objected to the term "completed tempering." This terminology "completed tempering" is based upon a grammatical error, which has now been corrected. Thus claim 19 recites that "once all the steps are completed, then tempering the glass" occurs. This tempering of the glass is at a temperature above a specified lower cooling point and the particles of ellipsoidal shapes are re-deformed towards their initial shapes. The original shape of the particles was spheres; in accordance with claim 16, these spheres are deformed to become ellipsoids. By means of subsequent tempering at suitable temperatures, the ellipsoids assume shapes with reduced eccentricities, without completely re-deforming back to spheres.

The Patent Examiner objected to claim 20 which refers to

ions which are embedded. In response to this objection, the metal ions are now recited as part of a Markush group.

The Patent Examiner objected to Claim 25 which refers to the glass being stretched. In response thereto, claim 25 is being amended to recite that this stretching is meant to be in step 6.

The Patent Examiner objected to Claim 26 which refers to "a continuous deforming process" which is allegedly of confusing antecedent basis. This objection has been overcome because claim 26 is amended to recite in the sixth step.

Claim 26 also refers to "after drawing" which lacks antecedent basis which makes it unclear as to whether any drawing is required. This objection has been overcome, because amended claim 26 does in fact recite "then drawing the glass, and then after stretching the glass."

For all these reasons set forth above, all the claims and the Specification, are firmly believed to be in complete compliance with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 112.

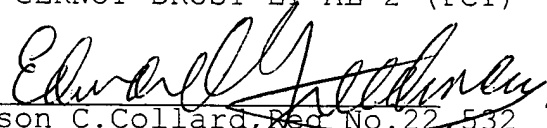
Withdrawal of this ground of rejection is respectfully requested.

A prompt notification of allowability is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure: Copy of Petition
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on December 18, 2003.



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